

(iii) *Remarks On The Amendment To The Claims:*

Claims 1, 10, 21, 35, 36 and 45 have been amended so that the probes are up to 30 subunits in length. As all of the probing nucleobase sequences are longer than 10 subunits in length this amendment is intended to clarify the claim language. This amendment is being made as a consequence of a discussion with the Examiner regarding USSN 09/520,760 on August 6, 2004.

Other amendments to Claims 10 and 21 are being made to clarify the claim language. In some cases the amendment merely removes preamble language that is typically given no patentable weight by The Office.

It is believed that no new matter has been added.

II. SUMMARY

In consideration of the preceding amendments and remarks, Applicant hereby respectfully requests reconsideration of all pending claims.

III. INTERVIEW

If the Examiner believes that a telephonic or personal interview would advance the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to contact attorney Gildea during business hours at the telephone or facsimile numbers listed below.

IV. FEES

It is believed that no fees are due for consideration of this amendment.

V. CORRESPONDENCE/CUSTOMER NUMBER

Please send all correspondence pertaining to this document to:

Applied Biosystems  
Attn: Brian D. Gildea, Esq.  
15 DeAngelo Drive  
Bedford, MA 01730  
Telephone: 781-280-2824  
Fax: 781-280-2940

IF NOT ALREADY DONE, PLEASE MATCH THIS CASE WITH CUSTOMER NUMBER

**23544**

Respectfully submitted  
on behalf of Applicant,

August 9, 2004  
Date

Brian D. Gildea  
Brian D. Gildea, Esq.  
Reg. No. 39,995